

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2005
INFO USCUSTOMS WASHDC
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 11818

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI FR LY
SUBJECT: SMITH AND WESSON LAWYERS VISIT EMBASSY
REGARDING ALLEGED STARTRON DIVERSION

REFS: STATE 9108; PARIS 1918, PARIS 10518

1. EMBASSY VISITED ON APRIL 21, 1977 BY LAWYERS
J. RODERICK HELLER, III OF LAW FIRM WILMER, CUTLER AND
PICKERING, AND DAVID SCANNELL, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR
BANGOR PUNTA CORPORATION, PARENT COMPANY OF SMITH AND
WESSON. HELLER, PRIMARY SPOKESMAN DURING VISIT,
REPORTED HIS FIRM HAD BEEN RETAINED TO CONDUCT INDEPEN-
DENT INVESTIGATION OF "STARTRON" SHIPMENTS WHICH
ALLEGEDLY DIVERTED TO LIBYA AS WELL AS TO MAKE RECOM-
MENDATION TO SMITH AND WESSON ON METHODS OF ADMINISTER-
ING ITS EXPORTS.

2. ALTHOUGH HELLER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DISCUSSING
DETAILS OF "STARTRON" DIVERSION CASE EMBASSY OFFICERS
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DECLINED ON BASIS THAT FILES CONTAINING INFORMATION
WERE CLASSIFIED AND EMBASSY COULD NOT PROVIDE ACCESS TO
FILES TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OUTSIDE U.S. GOVERNMENT
WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION. EMBASSY DID RESPOND TO
QUESTIONS OF GENERAL NATURE REGARDING EMBASSY PROCEDURES
FOR PROCESSING OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE
APPLICATIONS. HELLER SEEMED WELL VERSED IN U. S.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND MUNITIONS CONTROL REGULATIONS.

3. HELLER AND SCANNEL HAVE ALREADY MET WITH PARIS SMITH AND WESSON DISTRIBUTOR, GERARD P. ALLONCLE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAYMOND GERAND, S.A. HELLER AND SCANNEL ALSO SEEKING INTERVIEW WITH ARMS DEALER, GEORGE STARKMAN, ALTHOUGH THEY UNCERTAIN OF WHETHER STARKMAN CAN BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW. EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ADVICE ON APPROACHING STARKMAN.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION REGARDING DISPOSITION OF INVESTIGATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND GUIDANCE REGARDING POSSIBLE FUTURE VISITS OF ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATORS PARTICULARLY IN EVENT LITIGATION IS INITIATED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
HARLAN

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Message Attributes

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